

# Demos in Sweeping Victory Here



**MURDER SUSPECT**—Kenneth Raymond Crane, left, huddles with Attorney George E. Shibley, just before his arraignment Monday on charges that he killed his wife with a shotgun blast Halloween night. Press Photo

## Set Date For Crane Hearing

Kenneth Raymond Crane will face preliminary hearing Nov. 14 on charges he murdered his wife with a shotgun blast Halloween night.

The suspect, who claimed the shooting was an accident, was arraigned before Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong Monday and was ordered held in County Jail without bail.

During his arraignment the 30-year-old longshoreman was represented by George E. Shibley, attorney for his union, but announced that he wants the public defender at his preliminary hearing.

His father, stepmother and an uncle were present at the brief arraignment.

Crane is accused of shooting his pretty wife, Joan, 27, during a domestic argument Friday night. He told police he and his wife were quarrelling over financial matters and her housekeeping.

He told officers that he took the 16-gauge shotgun from the closet, and that it discharged while he and his wife struggled with it. Crane claims he did not know it was loaded.

Two other couple's three children were present in the home at 22910 Cabrillo Ave., when the shooting happened. Teresa, 9, and Steven, 8, were in their bedrooms, while an older child, Michael, was with his grandmother.

Mrs. Crane was employed as a real estate saleswoman.

## Props. 16, 18, Lose In Heavy Balloting

Jubilant Democrats today celebrated their election victory after Torrance voters gave smashing support to almost all their party's candidates on the ballot. Although statewide, some races have not yet been decided, locally nearly every Democrat received overwhelming backing. Congressman Cecil R. King was returned to his ninth term by an expected 31,000 to 22,000 margin based on incomplete returns.

Attorney General Edmund G. (Pat) Brown received a 3-2 backing in his successful bid for the governorship over Republican Senator William F. Knowland.

The margin was somewhat tighter in the victory of Rep. Claire Engle in his contest with Gov. Goodwin J. Knight for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Knowland.

**Huge Turnout**  
Election officials said that Torrance voters apparently had an even larger turnout at the polls than the record in the county which recorded approximately 75 per cent. Arthur Reilly, election official here, estimated the turnout at between 80 and 82 per cent.

The first of the 158 Torrance precincts to check in at the Civic Auditorium, came in at mid-night. By 9 a.m. yesterday, 17 precincts had not yet checked in.

The length of the ballot and the unusually heavy voting was blamed for the delay.

**Propositions Lose**  
As expected, Propositions 16, which would have removed tax exemption from parochial schools, and Prop. 18, the so-called right to work issue, were defeated by large majorities.

On the basis of incomplete returns of approximately 10 per cent of the vote, Brown was leading Knowland by 2126 to 1193, and Engle was ahead of Knight 1909 to 1417.

Prop. 16 went down by a 3-1 margin of 2487 to 851, while Prop. 18 lost by a 2-1 vote of 2200 to 1150.

Knight was ahead of Engle in some of the precincts.

Heavy fog which enveloped the area Tuesday night, caused several precinct workers to ask for police escorts to and from the Civic Auditorium.

**Police Messengers**  
In some cases, police acted as messengers, and brought in the ballots and supplies.

Although statewide some of

## Man Dies In Surf Accident

A Lawndale man drowned when a huge wave swept him from the rocks near the Pt. Vicente lighthouse where he had been fishing.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Pacific Medical Center, Redondo Beach, was John W. Bates, 44, of 4171 W. 162nd St.

The victim was swept off the rocks on the bottom of a steep cliff, while his wife, Coy Lee, and brother-in-law, Ed J. Blasengama, of 4610 W. 163rd St., were watching.

Deputy sheriffs said that witnesses told them they attempted to help Bates swim back to shore by throwing out fishing lines.

Joseph C. Wensil, 26, of 517 E. 213th St., Torrance, applied artificial respiration for 45 minutes while awaiting a Coast Guard helicopter to take Bates from the scene.

Deputies said the spot where Bates was swept into the surging sea, is about one-half mile from North Crest Rd. and Palos Verdes Dr. West.

## City Dump Fire Roars 15 Hours

Firemen worked for 15 hours in extinguishing a fire which broke out Sunday noon in the city dump off Madrona St.

Sole damage consisted of a scorched tire to a fire engine and loss of some hose.

A huge column of smoke poured out from the dump and a stench was noticed by nearby residents.

## Pilot of Downed Plane To Leave for Mexico

A Torrance executive will take off on another mercy flight next week, despite the bad luck he experienced on a previous flight when he had to make an emergency landing in the Mexican desert. Bob Johnson, 30, of 5305 Jacques St., announced he will take off for Mazatlan, Mexico next Wednesday to deliver a shipment of clothing to flood victims.

He is the same pilot whose plane developed engine trouble on a food mission flight Oct. 3, and smashed his tail assembly during an emergency landing in an isolated river bed in Sonora.

"I feel safer in a plane than in an auto," said Johnson, president of Western Aero, Inc., an aircraft part firm at Torrance Municipal Airport.

He said that the Western Exec-

## Mail Bid To Turk 'Sister'

An official invitation to Torrance's sister city was in the mail today for Rey Mustafa Sitka Blige, mayor of Konya, Turkey.

Included in the package airmailed from Torrance, was the City Council resolution volunteering to participate in the People to People program, a letter from the sponsoring committee, and a tape-recorded message from Mayor Albert Isen.

Sam Van Wagner, chairman of the citizens committee which selected Konya, a city with a population of 93,000, said that if the Turks accept the invitation, an exchange of letters and gifts will begin to promote better understanding between the citizens of the two cities.

Later an exchange of visitors may be sponsored.

The purpose of the People to People program is to explain the American way of life to other nations and to stress American liberties.

The Torrance Coordinating Council will handle exchanges of organizations, while the citizens committee will be in charge of individual activities.

## Hody's Lease End Acted on

Official cancellation of the lease between the city and Hody's Restaurant at Crenshaw Blvd. and Pacific Coast Hwy., was submitted to the city Council last night.

Sidney Hodemaker, owner of the restaurant chain, asked for termination of his lease, after the city refused to cut its rental as set forth in the original agreement.

## LOMITA BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits with a valuation of \$3,955,250 were issued by the Lomita office of the County Building Department during October.

## GOOD SAFETY SHOWING

Torrance has been commended for its safety record among city employees in a recent contest, sponsored by the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

## THEFT REPORTED

Theft of \$35 from his pocket after he had been hit over the head at Carson St. and Border Ave., was reported to police by Henry Allen Stultz, of 1321 1/2 Carson St.



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# Two Airmen Die in Beach Plane Crash



**CRASH VICTIM**—Lifeguards and other rescue workers bring body of Donald P. Volkmann, 26, of Inglewood, believed to have been the pilot of plane that crashed into ocean off Torrance Beach, onto pier in King Harbor. Press Photo



**TRAGEDY**—Body of Virgil F. Overlease, 23, of Los Angeles is in lifeguard boat "Bay Watch," which brought the two victims of plane crash to shore yesterday. The plane was observed crashing into ocean by Torrance residents Monday night.

## Crash in Ocean off Torrance

An investigation to determine if stunting was involved in the crash of a private plane which claimed the lives of two men Monday night, was launched by the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Recovered from the four-place Cessna 140, which crashed approximately 500 yards off Torrance Beach, were the bodies of Donald P. Volkmann, 26, of 1351 1/2 Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, father of five, and his passenger, Virgil F. Overlease, 23, of 7828 S. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles.

The single-engine craft sputtered, and then dove straight down into the water at approximately 8:15 p.m. Monday, about 45 minutes after take-off from Hawthorne Municipal Airport.

**Find Tires**  
Two tires and a shoe were found washing in the ocean Monday night, but the wreckage was not found until Tuesday morning. The plane had crashed into 36 feet of water with the bodies of the two men still inside the aircraft.

The bodies were recovered by a lifeguard underwater diving team and placed on the "Bay Watch" for return to King Harbor. The victims were taken to the White and Day Mortuary where services are pending.

Torrance and Palos Verdes Estates firemen placed searchlights on the shore Monday night to comb the inky water.

First report of the plane crash was made to Torrance police by Mrs. John Robb, of 115 Via Riviera.

**Observe Crash**  
She said that the crash was observed by a neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth Dunkin, and her daughter Susan, 14, as they walked along Torrance Beach.

Mrs. Robb quoted them as saying that they heard the plane engine sputtering, and saw the aircraft turn on its back and then fall down into the sea.

Sheriff's Aero squad investigators said that the CAA will investigate if any stunting was involved just before the crash.

Volkmann had a pilot's license in his possession, investigator said.

## Cities to Swap Street Paving

A recommendation that Torrance pave part of a Redondo Beach St. in return for the same favor on another street, was submitted to the City Council last night.

City Manager F. E. Hopkins of the beach city suggested that Redondo Beach pave and improve a portion of 190th St. within the Torrance city limits.

In return, Torrance would pave a portion of 182nd St. within the Redondo Beach city limits.

Both jobs would cost approximately the same and are deemed urgent.

## Lodger Finds Herself Quite Popular Here

Mrs. W. Lewis found herself quite popular after she ran a classified ad in the Torrance Press last week.

Mrs. Lewis, of 1513 W. 253rd St., Harbor City, was seeking room and board in a private home. After the ad appeared, she received 35 phone calls and says she found a very nice place where to live.

"I was amazed at the response I received," she said. "If you have something to sell, buy or rent, call a courteous ad-taker at the Torrance Press, FA 8-2345, and let her help you with your advertising problems."

## Lab Clears Teacher In Wife's Shooting

Laboratory tests came to the rescue of a Torrance school teacher, when they cleared him completely of suspicion that he shot his wife yesterday. Carroll Harvey Becker, 34, a sixth grade teacher at Casimir School was Monday morning after his wife, Mildred Grace, 38, died of a gunshot wound Sunday night.

Mrs. Becker was shot through her chest while in the kitchen of the couple's Hermosa Beach home.

When questioned by police, Becker admitted that he and his wife had a spat earlier that day when his wife accused him of spending too much time on school and PTA activities and not enough with her. Police Chief William H. Berlin said.

Although a paraffin test proved inconclusive, later laboratory tests indicated that Mrs. Becker was a suicide victim. Police said she had attempted to take her own life with sleeping pills a year ago.

Becker called police after he found his wife slumped on the kitchen floor.

The bantam-sized teacher said

## Thief Drops Goods

A well-dressed, but frightened thief dropped a portable television set and two sauce pans he had stolen, when the manager of an apartment house at 110 Via del Concha, yelled at him.

Donald Hendrickson, told police that the man dropped the articles stolen from the apartment of Armand La Pointe, when he shouted to him.

## Kids Start Fire

Children playing with matches were believed to have started a fire which broke out in the house of Joseph Letender, 2440 Border Ave., Monday.

The fire caused damage to a clothes closet and bedroom with loss estimated at approximately \$1000.

## Vagrant Must Curb Desire To See Beauty

Even though struck by Torrance's beauty, John Paul Lemeshewsky, 53, a transient, will have to stay away from here for two years.

Judge Donald Armstrong made that part of the defendant's probation after he pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge Monday.

"I heard that Torrance is a very beautiful town, and I always wanted to see your beautiful city," he told the judge.

Lemeshewsky was ordered to spend five days in the county jail and stay out of Torrance for two years as part of his probation.



**POISON BEAN**—Mrs. Vera M. Kiesler, points out one of the dangerous castor bean plants to her son, Bobby, 4. The North Torrance housewife urged strong control of these plants which caused a fatality last weekend, and a close brush with death for another child. (Press Photo)

## Strong Control Of Poison Bean Urged

Strong control of castor bean plants which recently claimed the life of a Fontana toddler, was urged today by a Torrance housewife.

She is Mrs. Vera M. Kiesler, of 3633 W. 180th Pl., who said there is no known antidote to the bean which is found on many vacant lots. Agreeing with her was Dr. B. A. Kogan, Torrance district health officer, who said that the bean, if chewed, "is fatal as the devil."

He said that a two-year-old boy was saved after he chewed one of the castor beans in Torrance on Oct. 21.

**Caused Death**  
Mrs. Kiesler noted that another two-year-old boy died in Fontana over the weekend after eating one of the beans.

"Strange, isn't it, to think how dangerous these are and how little we as people realize the hazards which plague many of our yards."

"So please, for the sake of your child, your neighbor's child or some other child, if you must have the plants, see that

## Strong Control Of Poison Bean Urged

the beans are burned so no child will be the victim of the tempting little beans which may mean death," said Mrs. Kiesler.

Dr. Kogan said that although the castor beans cause death, there is no law against the bushes, which are sometimes used for ornamental purposes because of their cluster of fan-like leaves.

Dr. Kogan said the beans, which are ash-colored and about the size of a Navy bean, cause their fatal effects in from one to three days after chewing.

If swallowed whole, they are not dangerous.

## Report on Russian Education

A report on the state of education in Russia today will be given at the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee at its noon meeting Monday in the Torrance YWCA.

Dr. Glen T. Goodwill, Santa Monica superintendent of schools, will describe some of the schools he saw while visiting Russia on a study trip sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. He and a group of other American educators spent a month touring Russian schools.

A classmate of Torrance Supt. J. H. Hull at the University of Redlands, Dr. Goodwill was superintendent at Monterey and Needles, Calif., before coming to Santa Monica. His hobby is travel.

TEAC members also will hear a school construction report and choose new officers for next year. Reservations should be made by Friday afternoon.